

2003 COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Staunton District Structure & Bridge Design Team *Innovation & Quality Improvement*

Staunton District

Team Members

Keith Weakley, P.E., Wayne Nolde, P.E., Charles Snyder,
John Brock, P.E., Park Thompson, P.E., Robbie Saufley

When the Groton Bridge Company built a 260-foot-long steel truss bridge over the Calpasture River at Goshen in 1890, loop welding and die forging were common methods for shaping steel; rivets were used extensively to help hold it together; and plans were drawn by hand on paper. More than 100 years later, with those processes all but extinct, rehabilitating the historic bridge in a way that would maintain its structural integrity and appearance became a monumental task—a task the Staunton District Structure and Bridge Design Team handled with excellence.

While the restored bridge retained the appearance of the original, including round-headed bolts that look like rivets, stronger steel and other improvements increased its capacity from six tons to more than 20 tons, strong enough for fire trucks, school buses and other heavy vehicles that could not use it before. The makeover also involved restoring its stone abutments and pier, and replacing the timber deck with a new glue-laminated deck.

The design team demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt modern steel fabrication techniques to preserve a historic landmark for our generation and for many more to come. They used innovative design processes while maintaining the historic beauty of the structure.

Nominated by: Paul Epperly

